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BOROUGH OF CLIFTON DARTMOUTH HARDNESS


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ANNUAL REPORT
ON THE HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT
FOR THE YEAR 1957



REPORT PRESENTED BY
THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

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Annual Report on the Health of the District for the year 1957

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BOROUGH OF CLIFTON DARTMOUTH HARDNESS
REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1957

P R E F A C E

To the Worshipful the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I present herewith my Report on the Health of the District in 1957. The Report has been drawn up on the lines suggested by the Ministry of Health. Following my Report, is the Report of your Public Health Inspector.

Dr. D.K. MacTaggart was your Medical Officer of Health until he resigned in September, 1957, to take up a similar appointment in a nearby District. The Borough was fortunate in that Dr. MacTaggart was able to act as Medical Officer of Health in a part-time capacity until December 31st 1957.

Vital Statistics

The Registrar General has estimated that the population of Dartmouth increased by 220 persons to a total of 6,220 persons. This increase is made up of an excess of Births over Deaths amounting to 14 persons, and an inward migration into Dartmouth of 206 people.

The Standardised Birth Rate at 14.5 per 1,000 population is a little below the Rate for the rest of the Country.

The Standardised Death Rate at 9.6 persons per 1,000 population compares very favourably with the National Average of 11.5 and is also well below the figure for 1956.

Diseases of the Heart and Circulation caused 35 out of the total of 69 deaths. This is approximately 50% of the total.

Cancer caused 12 deaths (17% of the total), and there were only 3 deaths from respiratory illnesses.

There were 2 deaths amongst children under the age of 1 year.

Notifiable Diseases

Dartmouth escaped any major outbreak of illness during 1957.

Poliomyelitis Immunisation

The Devon County Council arranged a series of inoculations against Poliomyelitis during the year.

Environmental Hygiene

Your Public Health Inspector has reported in detail on this aspect of the work, in Section C of the Report.

Inspections of substandard housing, with the accent upon repair rather than demolition, has occupied a great deal of time. Elimination of totally unfit properties, so far as human habitation is concerned, is severely hampered by a lack of suitable alternative accommodation to offer to the persons who would otherwise be homeless.

Meat inspection at Jawbones Abattoir is an exacting, and most important function of your Health Inspector. A total of 5,780 carcasses, together with offals was inspected. This represents 100 per cent inspection. Just over 5 per cent of the meat inspected was found to be partially or wholly diseased. This is an improvement over 1956 when the comparable figure was over 8 per cent. The improvement can be attributed mainly to a lowered incidence of tuberculosis amongst cattle.

JOHN WILDMAN

Medical Officer of Health.

Dartmouth.
29th August, 1958.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT - STAFF

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

D.K. MACTAGGART, M.A., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.(Lond).
(Resigned: 30th September, 1957).

John H. WILDMAN, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.(Lond).
(Appointed: 1st January, 1958).

Local Office

Public Health Department,
12, Victoria Road, Dartmouth. Telephone: Dartmouth 480

Central Office - Medical Officer of Health

Public Health Department,
Municipal Offices, Oldway, Paignton.

Telephone: OFFICE Paignton 82214
Home Brixham 3113

Medical Officer's Clerk: Mrs. S. Beaumont, Public Health Dept.,
Municipal Offices, Oldway, Paignton. Telephone 82214 Extn. 59.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

V.E. HUGHES, Certificate of the R.S.I. & S.I.E.J. Board,
Certificate for Inspectors of Meat and other Foods.

Public Health Department,
12, Victoria Road, Dartmouth. Telephone: Dartmouth 480.

Occasional clerical assistance to the Public Health Department is rendered
by Miss M.V. Legg in the Surveyor's Department.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

The Chairman of the Public Health Committee for the session 1957/58
was Councillor Mr. A.M.W. Chapman and the Committee consisted of the whole
of the members of the Council.

S E C T I O N A

VITAL STATISTICS AND GENERAL STATISTICS 1957

(Table 1)

(Figures for 1956 are shown in brackets)

POPULATION:

Estimated Mid-Year Population of Dartmouth Borough

6,220 (6,000)

Natural Increase or decrease	...	...	...	+	14
Migration in or out	...	...	...	+	206
Total Increase or decrease	...	...	...	+	220

GENERAL STATISTICS:

Area in Acres 1,925

Number of Inhabitated Houses according to Rate Books (31st March).

2,204 (2,278)

Number of Houses per acre.	1.1
Number of Persons per acre.	3.2
Number of Persons per house.	2.8

Rateable Value of District (31st December) £83,046

Sum Represented by a Penny Rate £335

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1957

<u>Line No.</u>		<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
	ALL CAUSES	37	32
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	0	0
2	Tuberculosis, other	1	0
3	Syphilitic disease	1	1
4	Diphtheria	0	0
5	Whooping Cough	0	0
6	Meningococcal infections	0	0
7	Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0
8	Measles	0	0
9	Other infective and parasitic disease ..	0	1
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach ..	2	1
11	" " lung, bronchus	1	1
12	" " breast	0	1
13	" " uterus	0	0
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms. ...	2	5
15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	0	0
16	Diabetes	0	0
17	Vascular Lesions of nervous system	7	4
18	Coronary disease, angina	6	4
19	Hypertension with heart disease	2	1
20	Other heart disease	0	4
21	Other circulatory disease	5	2
22	Influenza	0	0
23	Pneumonia	1	0
24	Bronchitis	1	1
25	Other diseases of respiratory system	0	0
26	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	2	0
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	0
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	0	0
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	2	0
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0	0
31	Congenital malformations	0	0
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	2	5
33	Motor vehicle accidents	0	0
34	All other accidents	1	1
35	Suicide	0	0
36	Homicide and operations of war	0	0
(a)	Still Births	3	1
(b)	Deaths of infants under four weeks of age	1	1
(c)	" " " four weeks to one year of age.	1	1

S E C T I O N B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR DARTMOUTH

LABORATORY SERVICE

Laboratory facilities are provided by the Public Health Laboratory Service at Exeter and Plymouth.

In emergency, certain (medical) specimens can be examined at the Laboratory of the Torbay Hospital, Torquay.

COUNTY COUNCIL HEALTH SERVICES

The following are some of the County Council Services under the National Health Service Act, 1946, available at Dartmouth. Full details can be obtained from the County Medical Officer, 45, St. Davids Hill, Exeter.

Ambulance Service

The ambulance service at Dartmouth is operated by the St. John Ambulance Brigade, under an agency agreement with the Devon County Council. (Telephone: Dartmouth 76/77). Except in emergency, an ambulance should be ordered by a medical practitioner.

Home Nursing, Midwifery, Health Visiting and Welfare Centres

There are two District Nurses and Midwives (Telephone Dartmouth 268), one Health Visitor (Telephone Stoke Fleming 243), and one Welfare Centre.

Vaccinations, Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus Immunisations

A Medical Officer at the Welfare Centre, Mayors Avenue will vaccinate or immunise babies at the request of parents. Family Doctors will also provide this prophylaxis free of charge.

Home and Domestic Help Service

Applications for this service should be addressed to the Local Organiser at 19, Fair View Road, Dartmouth.

A charge may be made for this service, in accordance with the County Council's assessment scale.

Mental Health

Arrangements for mental treatment on the recommendation of a Medical Practitioner are made by the Duly Authorised Officer Mr. H.S. Smith (Telephone: Kingsbridge 2178).

Help in respect of Mentally Defective persons can be obtained by application to the County Medical Officer.

HOSPITAL SERVICES

The Dartmouth and Kingswear Hospital (23 beds) is administered by the Torquay Hospital Management Committee. Patients from Dartmouth also attend the Torbay Hospital, Torquay, which is the principal general hospital for the area.

Chronic Sick can receive treatment at Broomborough Hospital Totnes and at Newton Abbot Hospital.

All the above beds are managed by the Torquay Hospital Management Committee within the South-Western Regional Hospital Board.

The Devon County Council provides 43 Beds at Broomborough Hospital Totnes, and 15 Beds at Newton Abbot Hospital for the care of aged persons, under Part III of the National Assistance Act, 1948.

GENERAL PRACTITIONER MEDICAL SERVICES

There are 4 General Medical Practitioners in Dartmouth.

DENTAL SERVICE

There are 2 Dentists at Dartmouth. There is also a school dental clinic at the Clinic, Mayors Avenue.

OTHER SERVICES

Blood Transfusion Donor Sessions at Dartmouth are periodically arranged by the S.W. Blood Transfusion Service.

There is a mortuary managed by the Council.

S E C T I O N C

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1957

To the Worshipful the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I herewith submit my Report for the year ended the
31st December, 1957.

I should like to thank the Council and my colleagues in other
departments, particularly the Borough Engineer and his staff for their
help and co-operation throughout the year.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

V. E. HUGHES

Public Health Inspector.

29th August, 1958.

WATER SUPPLY

PUBLIC Source of Supply

Drinking water is supplied by the South Devon Water Board from their moorland supplies on Dartmoor and the Norton Reservoir at Dartmouth.

Quality

The water is filtered and chlorinated. The Board takes frequent bacteriological samples, from the supply mains and all the results for Dartmouth in 1957 were satisfactory.

PRIVATE Sources of Supply

At the end of the year, there were still 37 properties in the Borough deriving water from private springs or shallow wells.

A total of 60 water samples from these sources were sampled, and 23 were found to be bacteriologically unfit to drink in the raw state. Consumers were advised to boil the water for human consumption.

Arrangements are being made with the Water Board for the provision of a main piped supply to 8 of the houses showing the most consistent degree of contamination.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The Borough has 5 main sewer outfalls which discharge into the tidal estuary of the River Dart. The North Embankment Outfall was renewed during 1957.

In addition there are a number of privately owned sewer outfalls.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Household Refuse is collected weekly, and is disposed of by controlled tipping on land at Jawbones. Cardboard and paper is burnt.

Trade Refuse is collected twice weekly, free of charge. Any special collections are charged for at the rate of one shilling per bin.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Disinfection and Disinfestation

There were only 67 notified cases of disease during the year. The principle outbreak was of Scarlet Fever which was confined almost entirely to one school where considerable disinfection work was carried out.

There were 264 articles treated in the steam disinfecter, which continues to give excellent service. The cost of treatments was fully recovered in most cases. Seventeen premises including two Council houses, were treated for vermin.

Tents, Vans and Sheds

The licensed site containing 25 caravans was very well maintained throughout the year. One new site for 85 caravans was licensed and necessary amenities are in process of being provided. The holiday chalets at Compass Cove were at all times found satisfactory and samples of water taken from the private supply were found free from contamination.

HOUSING

Inspections

A total of 195 houses in the Borough was inspected under the Public Health and Housing Acts during 1957. This necessitated 902 visits.

In addition 164 complaints were received and dealt with.

The following list gives a summary of repair work completed and inspected:-

Roofs	...	...	...	...	13
External Walls	...	...	...	...	9
Internal Plastering	...	...	...	...	17
Ceilings	...	...	...	...	6
Floors	...	...	...	...	16
Windows	...	...	...	...	9
Fireplaces	...	...	...	...	1
Doors	...	...	...	...	6
Chimneys	...	...	...	...	4
Premises cleansed	...	...	...	...	14

DRAINAGE

Inspections made	...	...	...	76
Tests carried out	...	...	...	32
Drains repaired	...	...	...	36
Gullies provided or renewed	...	...	...	11
Sinks	...	...	...	11
Rainwater pipes and gutters	...	...	...	6
Water closets provided, repaired or renewed	...	...	...	13
New drains laid (excluding new properties)	...	...	...	21
Inspection chambers built or repaired...	...	...	...	13

Overcrowding

There were no cases of overcrowding at the beginning of 1957. Three new cases (involving 11 persons) were discovered and remedied, during the year.

At the end of December 1957 one of these cases had again become overcrowded.

Substandard Housing

One house, and one part of a house were closed for human habitation, and one house was demolished, during 1957.

Of the original list of 43 properties scheduled for attention under the Council's slum clearance proposals 21 have been dealt with as follows:-

- 5 Have been demolished.
- 2 Have Demolition Orders on them.
- 3 Have been Closed (by agreement with the owners).
- 2 Have Closing Orders on them.
- 1 Has part of the house Closed by Order.
- 2 Houses have been made habitable by the owners.
- 6 Houses have been repaired and converted into three habitable dwellings.

This leaves 22 of the original list, together with various other houses, which have since been surveyed, still to be dealt with.

Lack of suitable alternative accommodation is still the greatest obstacle to be overcome in the improvement and clearance programme.

Rent Act, 1957

No very great difficulty has resulted from the 1957 Rent Act. There were 17 applications for advice by tenants who objected to rent increases on the grounds of house defects which were rectified after service of Form G by the tenants.

Certificates of Disrepair

Only two applications for Certificates of Disrepair were received.

Improvement Grants

Six Improvement Grants were approved during the year. The value of Grants made was approximately £800.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD
AND FOOD PREMISES

MILK AND DAIRIES

Milk Supply

There remain four registered dairies in the town, one of which is equipped with a Holder type pasteurising plant. Two farms are registered for the sale of tuberculin tested farm bottled milk. The remaining farmers dispatch all milk produced to a central pasteurising plant.

Milk Samples

25 samples of milk were sent to the laboratory for the methylene blue cleanliness test. 22 of these passed the test. Three failed and were referred to the County Milk Production Officer for investigation.

25 samples were submitted for the Tuberculin Test and all were declared free from the disease. Two samples of school milk were sent for examination both passed the cleanliness and pasteurisation tests.

School Milk

All the milk supplied to schools was pasteurised, and samples taken throughout the year were satisfactory.

FOOD PREMISES

Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955

During the year 489 visits were made to food premises in the town. The general standard of cleanliness of food premises improved still further during the year. With the exception of one canteen which closed down, the number of food premises remained the same as the previous year.

Visits were made as follows:-

Market and Stalls (16 Stallholders)	44
16 Cafes and Restaurants, Canteens	84
10 Bakehouses and Confectioners	79
21 Hotels	35
20 Ice Cream Premises	83
6 Wet and Fried Fish Shops	12
10 Butchers	85
28 Fruit and Grocery	47
4 Dairies	20

Improvements: Notices served etc.

1. Three notices were issued requiring the provision of wash-hand basins with hot and cold water.
2. One notice was issued for the repair and improvement of sanitary accommodation.
3. Two verbal warnings were given regarding smoking in food premises.
4. Four verbal warnings were given for the provision of, or better care of, refuse containers.

Slaughtering and Meat Inspection

A total of 244 visits to the Public Abattoir were made, and details of carcasses and offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part, are shown in the following table:-

	<u>Cattle</u> (Excl. Cows)	<u>Cows</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep</u> and <u>Lambs</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
Number killed in 1957	244	37	34	4,438	1,027
Number Inspected in 1957	244	37	34	4,438	1,027
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:-					
Whole carcase condemned	0	1	1	1	3
Part carcase or organ condemned	48	8	2	150	71
Tuberculosis only:-					
Whole carcase condemned	0	2	0	0	2
Part carcase or organ condemned	4	0	0	0	11
Cysticercosis:-					
Part carcase or organ condemned	6	0	0	0	0
Treated by refrigeration	6	0	0	0	0

The number of animals dealt with at the Public Abattoir was comparable with the previous year and all were inspected post mortem. The incidence of tuberculosis in all animals showed an appreciable and very welcome decline. Although this area is not due to be a declared Tuberculosis Eradication Area until March, 1959, it is evident that the free tuberculin tests for cattle, provided by the Ministry of Agriculture is already paying dividends. To qualify for an attested certificate and bonus payments, a farmer has to subject his herd to two consecutive clear tests over a period of not less than two months.

Except for pigs the incidence of disease and parasites found in animals slaughtered during the year was greatly reduced. In the case of pigs, pneumonia, probably of parasitic origin, was found to be much more prevalent. There is still no sign that *Cysticercus Bovis* is on the decline; although no generalised cases were discovered, there still remains about the same average number of animals found with localised cysts. A feature of this parasite is that it is invariably confined to cattle in prime condition.

Disposal of Condemned Meat

The weight of meat condemned at the slaughterhouse amounted to
1 Ton. 18 Cwt. 14 lb.

This meat was dyed to show it was unfit for human consumption, and was then released to a reputable company for processing into fertiliser and animal feeding stuffs.

Slaughtermen

There were nine persons licensed to act as slaughtermen under the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

Other Unsound Food

Food surrendered by retailers, as being unfit for human consumption, is listed below:-

<u>Fresh Food</u>			
Beef	40	lb.	
Bacon	54	lb.	
<u>Canned Foods</u>			
	<u>lb.</u>		<u>lb.</u>
Corned Beef	90	Salmon	$\frac{1}{2}$
Brisket Beef	12	Shrimps	$\frac{1}{4}$
Tongue	14	Peas	34
Ham	47	Peaches	$4\frac{1}{2}$
Pork	8	Pears	$3\frac{1}{2}$
Minced Pork	8	Plums	$3\frac{1}{2}$
Luncheon Meat	$4\frac{1}{4}$	Pineapples	$5\frac{3}{4}$
Livers	2	Tomatoes	5
Stewed Steak	3	Grapefruit	1
Jellied Veal	30	Apricots	2
Veal, Ham & Egg Pie	1	Evaporated Milk	5

Food Samples sent for analysis

The Devon County Council Sampling Officer, in accordance with authority given by the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, caused the following samples to be analysed:-

<u>Substance</u>	<u>Samples</u>
Raw Milk	16
Butter	1
Apple Pectin	1
Australian Golden Sherry	1
Flake Tapioca	1
Suprina Soluble Asprin	1
Pork Sausages	1
Beef Sausages	1
Nimble Loaf	1
Ice Cream	1
Ammoniated Tincture of Quinine	1

Apart from the sample of butter which contained an excess of water, the samples were declared to be genuine.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Rodent Control

Rodent control under the above Act is in full operation in Dartmouth. One Operator is employed and works alternate weeks at Dartmouth and Brixham. This arrangement has worked well.

The table below summarises the action taken during the year.

	<u>Council's Property</u>	<u>Dwelling Houses</u>	<u>Business Premises</u>	<u>Agricul- tural</u>	<u>Total</u>
No. of Properties Inspected.	9	620	64	20	713
No. found to be infested by rats.	4	80	11	0	95
No. infested by mice.	0	133	38	0	171
No. of properties treated for infestations.	4	213	49	0	266
No. of block control schemes carried out.	0	0	0	0	0

A total of 758 visits was made as follows:-

Private Premises	473
Business Premises	265
Agricultural Premises	20

Estimated kill - Rats: 421 - Mice: 226

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

There is only one Registered User of Rag Flock. Supplies are obtained from licenced premises outside the Borough. No samples were taken during the year.

SHOPS ACT, 1950

Periodic inspections under the Act were carried out and no notices were issued.

PETROLEUM AND EXPLOSIVES ACTS

Number of licenses granted to store Petroleum	...	8
Number of licences granted to store Mixed		
Explosives	... ..	9

GAME ACT, 1831

Four persons were licensed to deal in game.

SECTION D

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948

The following is a summary of information already supplied in detail to the Ministry of Labour and National Service on Form 572 (Revised), in respect of the year 1957.

Part 1 of the Act

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

Factories without Mechanical Power:

Number on Register	...	...	8
Inspections	...	...	11

Factories with Mechanical Power:

Number on Register	...	...	31
Inspections	...	...	41

Other Premises under the Act:

(Electric Stations, Institutions, Sites of Building Operations, Works of Engineering Construction, but excluding Outworker's Premises).

Number on Register	Nil.
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2. Cases in which Defects were found.

<u>Defect</u>	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>
Sanitary Conveniences:		
(a) Insufficient	1	0
Total Defects referred to H.M. Inspector	...	Nil.
Total Defects referred by H.M. Inspector	...	Nil.

Part VIII of the Act

OUTWORK (Section 110 and 111)

Wearing Apparel (making)	...	2.
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